

**DATA STORAGE SYSTEM HAVING SEPARATE DATA TRANSFER  
SECTION AND MESSAGE NETWORK**

**ABSTRACT**

A system interface includes a plurality of first directors, a plurality of second  
5 directors, a data transfer section and a message network. The data transfer section includes a  
cache memory. The cache memory is coupled to the plurality of first and second directors.  
The messaging network operates independently of the data transfer section and such network  
is coupled to the plurality of first directors and the plurality of second directors. The first and  
second directors control data transfer between the first directors and the second directors in  
10 response to messages passing between the first directors and the second directors through the  
messaging network to facilitate data transfer between first directors and the second directors.  
The data passes through the cache memory in the data transfer section. A method for operating  
a data storage system adapted to transfer data between a host computer/server and a bank of  
disk drives. The method includes transferring messages through a messaging network with  
15 the data being transferred between the host computer/server and the bank of disk drives  
through a cache memory, such message network being independent of the cache memory.